

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter contained in claims 2-3 and 8.

Claims 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. In response, Applicants amended claim 1 to delete the “directly deposited” claim language, and request withdrawal of the rejection on this basis.

Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Yoshikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,274,233) in view of Ejiri et al. (U.S. Patent App. No. 2002/0068197 A1). In response, Applicants amended claims 1 and 7-8 to clarify that the “in-plane magnetic film” is an “in-plane magnetic recording film”, and respectfully traverse. Applicants traverse the rejection because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a tBr product value of the perpendicular magnetic film that is less than or equal to one-fifth of a tBr product value of an in-plane magnetic recording film.

In Yoshikawa, the tBr product value of the in-plane magnetic film is 20 – 50G μ m. Thus, Yoshikawa cannot suppress distortion of a reproduced signal waveform and noise, as in the present invention.

Ejiri teaches a magnetic recording medium having two recording films of mutually perpendicular magnetic anisotropy. One medium records a servo signal and the other medium records data. That is, an upper layer records the data and a lower layer records the servo signal. Ejiri further teaches a very large tBr product value of 125 – 15000G μ m.


This product value of tBr is significantly larger than that of the in-plane magnetic recording layer of the present invention, which has a product value of less than 100G μ m.

In addition, Ejiri discloses in paragraph [0022] an easily magnetizable axis of the uppermost magnetic layer in a wide direction, and an easily magnetizable axis of the lower magnetic layer in a length direction. This indicates that both of the magnetic layers are for in-plane magnetic recording, and also that Ejiri does not provide for using a perpendicular magnetic film to record, as in the present invention. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1 and 4-7 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

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300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer No. 24978

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